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BATMAN



WOLFGANG

**WOLFMAN
APARO
DeCARLO**

**ЧЕЛОВЕК
ЛЕТУЧАЯ
МЫШЬ**

МЫ К КОММУНИЗМУ

HE KNOWS THIS CITY.

HE KNOWS EVERY STREET, EVERY INTERSECTION, EVERY BACK ALLEY, EVERY SEWER, EVERY TUNNEL.

WHEN THE EARTH DIES!

CHAPTER ONE: RED SQUARE! BLOODY SQUARE!

ALL OF GOTHAM IS HIS CITY. NOT JUST THE UPPER EAST SIDE PARK ROW BROWNSTONES, OR THE MIDTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT, OR THE DOWNTOWN FINANCIAL ARENAS.

THE BLACK AND SPANISH GHETTOS, THE PARKS FILLED WITH TRANSIENTS, THE BOWERY WITH ITS ADDICTS AND DRUNKARDS, THEY ARE PART OF HIS CITY, TOO.

AND THEY ARE ALSO HIS TO PROTECT.

FORGET IT, GLASHER--

--YOUR BLOOD SPREE'S OVER!

BBZZZZZZZZ

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HE KNOWS WHERE THEY BEGIN. HE KNOWS THEIR WINDING PATHWAYS...

AND BETTER...



... HE KNOWS WHERE THEY COME TO AN END.

GOTHAM ISN'T YOUR CITY, SLASHER.

IT BELONGS TO ITS PEOPLE.

NOT TO ITS VERMIN.

B-BATMAN



POLICE DETECTIVE NIKITA KRAKOV WAS ROUSTED OUT OF BED AT 4:23 A.M. AS ALWAYS, HIS WIFE SLEPT THROUGH THE FRANTIC PHONE CALL.

CUT IN HALF? *

* Translated from the Russian.



AS DISGUSTING AS ALL THE OTHERS.

DIMITRI, I WISH I WERE A RELIGIOUS MAN...



...THEN I WOULD FEEL JUSTIFIED IN ASKING FOR HELP.

ANY IDENTIFICATION?

POLITBURO MEMBER, YURI GREGAROFF.

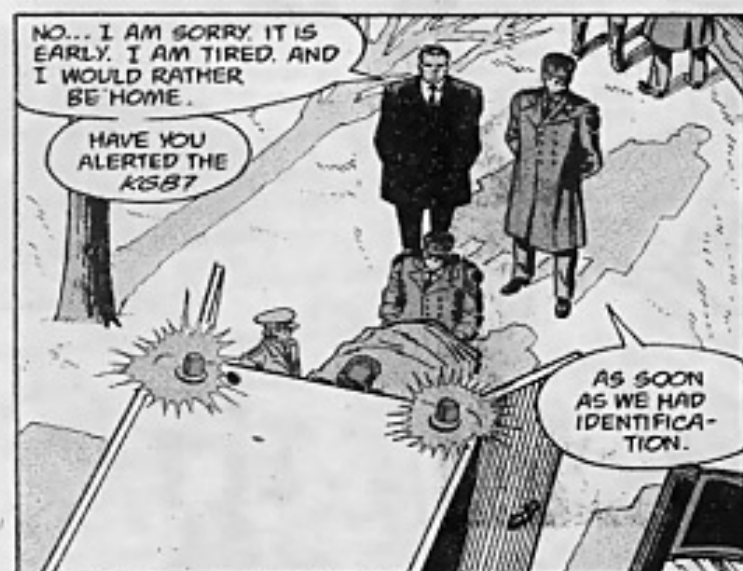
NUMBER THREE ON HIS LIST.



I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT LIST AGAIN.

OR OF HIM.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF IT!



NO... I AM SORRY. IT IS EARLY. I AM TIRED. AND I WOULD RATHER BE HOME.

HAVE YOU ALERTED THE KGB?

AS SOON AS WE HAD IDENTIFICATION.



THEN, THEY WILL TAKE OVER THE INVESTIGATION.

AND PERHAPS I MIGHT YET GET A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP.



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MR. KESOGAN, WE CAN'T JUST ASK HIM TO FLY TO THE SOVIET UNION--

AND WHY NOT, COMMISSIONER?



HE DOESN'T *MEET* FOR US. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, BUT... HE'S A FREE-LANCER.

HE... UH... COOPERATES WITH US. WE, UH-- DO THE SAME WITH HIM. SOMETIMES. AS I SAY, HARD TO EXPLAIN.

IF YOU CANNOT ORDER HIS COOPERATION...



PERHAPS HE CAN BE ENTICED. WE HAVE A... PROBLEM. DO YOU REMEMBER THE *ABEAST*?

REMEMBER? I STILL HAVEN'T REPLACED HALF THE MEN HE KILLED.

HE WAS A *ASS* KILLER--



NO. HE WAS A *RENEGADE* WHO ALMOST BEGAN A WAR BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

THE BEAST HAD A PROTEGE, ONE GREGOR DOSYNSKI.

TWO MONTHS AFTER THE BEAST WAS DEFEATED, DOSYNSKI VANISHED. TWO WEEKS AGO WE RECEIVED THIS LETTER FROM HIM.



"ANATOLI KNYAZEV WAS A PATRIOT. OUR GOVERNMENT TRAINED HIM, THEN TURNED THEIR BACK ON HIM AND WORKED WITH THE IMPERIALISTS TO SEDUCE AND CAPTURE HIM.

"WE HAVE GROWN WEAK. WE HAVE GIVEN UP THE TENETS OF MARXISM AND HAVE ADOPTED THE WAYS OF THE AMERICANS.

"THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN. AS HE TARGETED TEN AMERICANS TO DIE, I TARGET TEN SOVIET TRAITORS.



"TEN WHO HAVE MADE OUR COUNTRY WEAK. TEN WHO MUST DIE TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY STRONG AGAIN.

"AND WHEN THE FINAL TRAITOR DIES, ALL THE WORLD WILL KNOW OUR TRUE STRENGTH."

THREE HAVE ALREADY BEEN KILLED. IN THE MOST GRUESOME WAYS.



BUT WHY, BATMAN?

HE WAS THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF STOPPING THE KGB EAST.



WE BELIEVE HE MAY BE THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF STOPPING THE DEMON.

THE DEMON?

AS KNYAZEY WAS THE KGB'S MOST FEROCIOUS AGENT, DOSYNSKI SERVED IN AN EQUAL CAPACITY FOR THE NKVD.

"YEARS AGO HE EARNED THE NICK-NAME, 'THE NKVD DEMON.'"

ALFRED, PLEASE ARRANGE FOR A VISA INTO THE SOVIET UNION.

I'M CONSIDERING OPENING A DIVISION OF WAYNE INDUSTRIES THERE.



ANNNH, AN ACTUAL WORK BUSINESS TRIP, OR SHOULD I PACK YOUR GRAY AND BLACK SUIT?

INCLUDE IT, ALFRED. I'VE GOT SOME LEFTOVER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

AND SOME FAILURES TO CORRECT.



WHAT OF TIMOTHY? HE'S WAITING FOR HIS TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

I'M NOT SENDING AN INEXPERIENCED KID INTO THE FIELD.

NOT AGAIN.



AND WHILE I'M GONE, ALFRED, SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT HIS PARENTS.

SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON WITH THEM.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.









WE DO NOT EAT HERE, YOU KNOW. AMERICANS, FRENCH, BRITISH, THEY ALL COME. YOU WILL LIKE THIS.

OUR FOOD IS MUCH MORE SIMPLE.

I CAN EAT IN AMERICAN-STYLE RESTAURANTS ANY DAY. I'D RATHER TRY ONE OF YOURS.



I COME HERE OFTEN. THE FOOD IS VERY... VERY GOOD. IS BETTER?

CERTAINLY MORE "ATMOSPHERIC."

BRUCE? BRUCE WAYNE? IS THAT YOU?



IT IS YOU.

MY GOD, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?



VICKI VALE, RIGHT? YOU'RE ABOUT THE LAST PERSON I EXPECTED TO SEE HERE.

THEN YOU'RE NOT READING GOTHAM VIEW. OR YOU'D KNOW I WAS ASSIGNED TO DO SOME PHOTO ESSAYS OF THE SOVIET UNION.

"RUSSIA UNDER GLASSHOE." CATCHY?



UHH-- AHM!

OH, RIGHT. I'M SORRY, ANNA.

ANNA, THIS IS VICKI VALE. WE MET A YEAR OR SO AGO WHEN SHE TOOK SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF MY HOME.



HOME! THAT'S LIKE CALLING THE KREMLIN A SMALL GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING.

HOW MANY ROOMS YOU'VE GOT, BRUCE? SEVENTY, EIGHTY?

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER COUNTED THEM.

LISTEN, I AM ANNA PETROVA, FROM THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

OOHHH, A WORK DINNER. YOU'RE SLIPPING, BRUCE.



HE STUDIED THE CITY
MAP FROM THE MOMENT
HE HAD BOARDED THE
WAYNECORP JET.

STUDIED THE RING OF STREETS
CIRCLING THE WALLED KREMLIN HUB.

STUDIED THE
LOCATION OF
PARKS, CHURCHES,
MONUMENTS,
MUSEUMS,
GOVERNMENT
OFFICE BUILDINGS...

...AS WELL AS THE
PINWHEEL PATH OF
THE UNDERGROUND
MOSCOW METRO.

GIVEN THE VERY
FEW HOURS HE'S
HAD TO PREPARE, HE
KNOWS THIS CITY AS
WELL AS HE COULD
POSSIBLY EXPECT TO.

IT IS *NOT* ENOUGH.

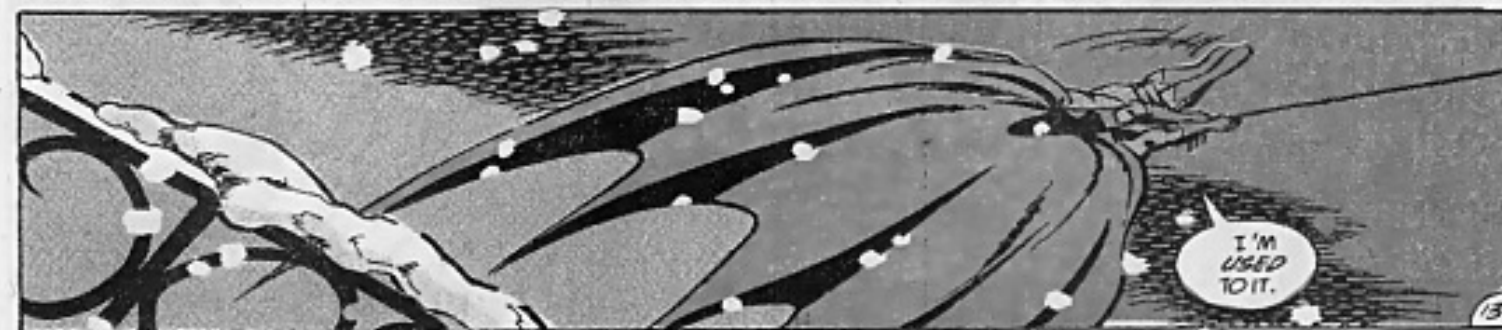
MOSCOW IS *NOT* HIS CITY.

HE DOES NOT FEEL ITS
INTERNAL RHYTHMS.

HE DOES NOT INSTINCTIVELY
KNOW ITS SUBTLE *SHIFTS*.

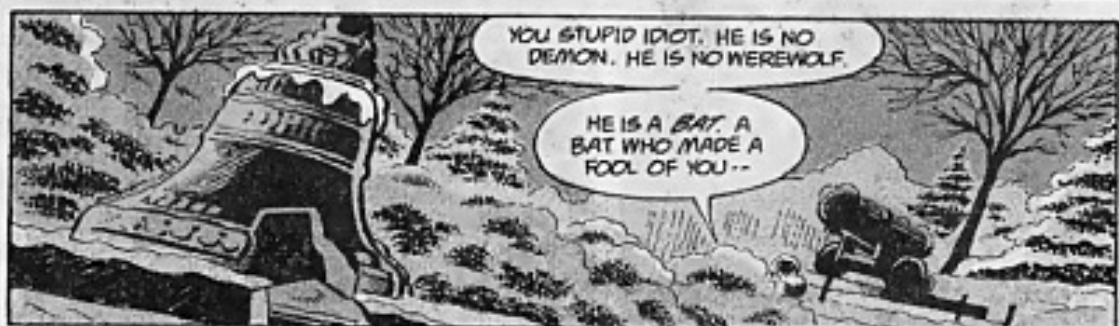
BUT HE HAS NO CHOICE.

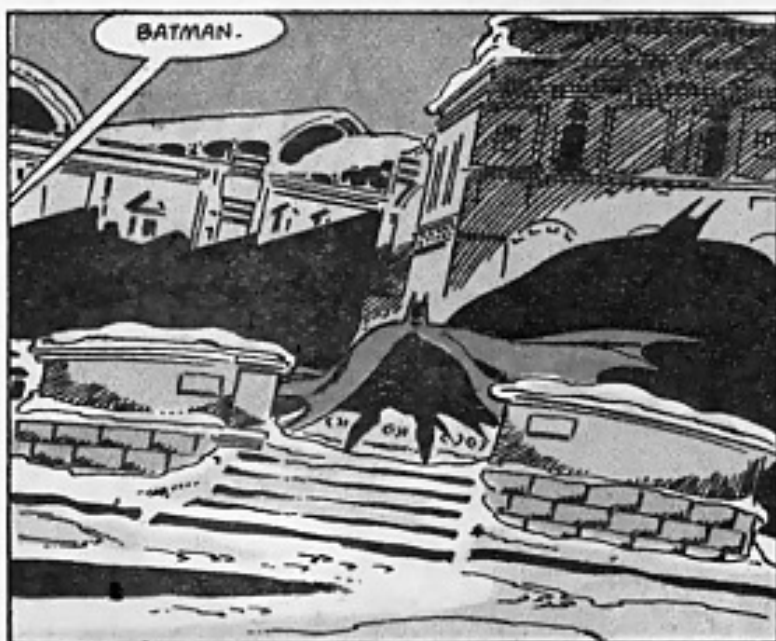
HE KNOWS
WHAT *MAY*
TO BE
DONE.













THE BEAST TRAINED ME, AMERICAN.

HE FED ME SPECIAL STEROIDS, MAKING ME STRONGER THAN ANY MAN.



FASTER THAN ANY MAN.



MY SKIN WAS HARDENED, MY NERVES PARTIALLY DEADENED SO I CANNOT FEEL PAIN.



I AM VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO HARM.



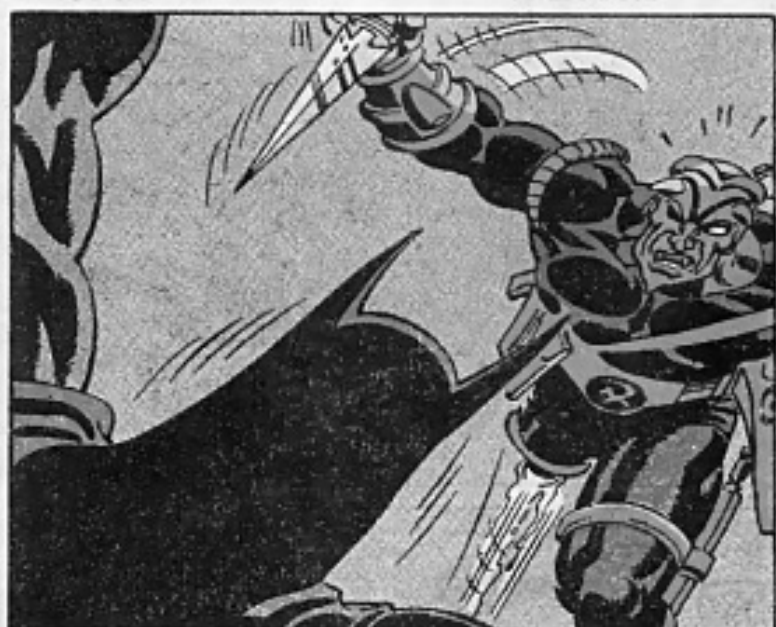
EVERYTHING I AM--

-- I OWE TO THE MAN YOU DESTROYED.



I WILL HAVE MY SATISFACTION.

HE WILL HAVE HIS REVENGE!







THIS WILL NOT HELP
YOU, BATMAN.



I WILL NOT
BE DEFEATED

NOW!!



WHAT??



(WEAPONS READY. AIM
FOR DOBINSKY ALONE.)

(IF YOU MIGHT
HIT THE AMERICAN,
DON'T FIRE)



YOU LED ME HERE. THIS
WAS NO BATTLE BETWEEN
PEERS.

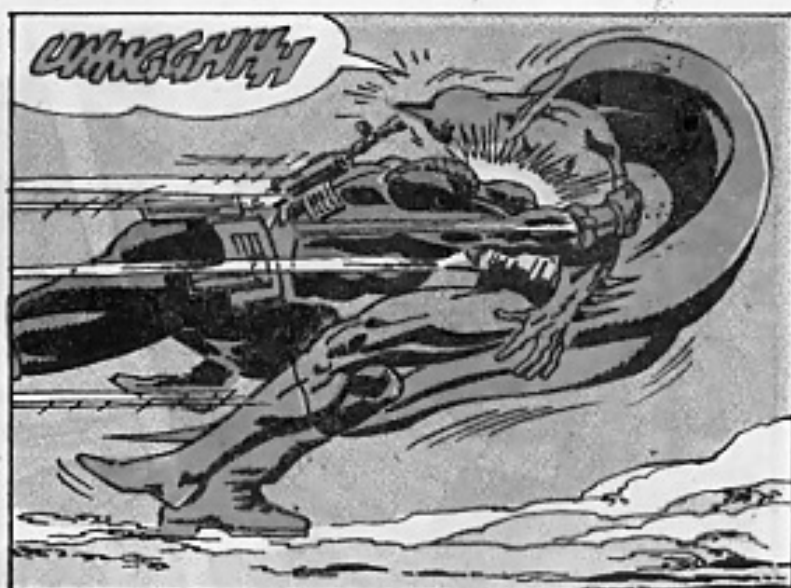
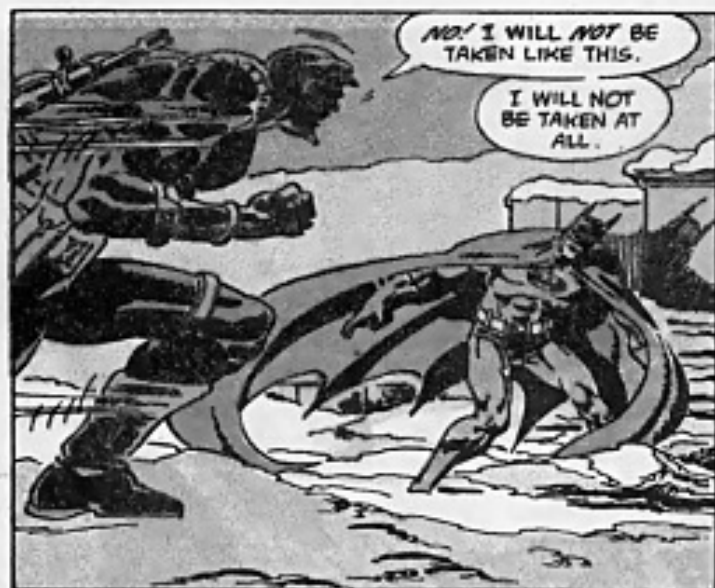
THIS WAS
A LIE.

I'M NOT HERE
TO PLAY GAMES
WITH YOU.



I DON'T FIGHT FOR
THE THRILL OF
BATTLE.

AND I DON'T FIGHT
UNLESS THERE'S NO
RECOURSE.



NEXT ISSUE: CHAPTER TWO BLOOD ALLEY!